

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 28th January 1882.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi" ... ..	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly	175	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Sansodhini" ... ..	Chittagong	600	19th January 1882.
4	"Purva Pratidhwani" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
5	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ... ..	Calcutta	700	
6	"Arya Darpan" ... ..	Ditto	.....	27th ditto.
7	"Bangabāsi" ... ..	Ditto	.....	21st ditto.
8	"Bhārat Bandhu" ... ..	Ditto	.....	24th ditto.
9	"Bhārat Mihir" ... ..	Mymensing	671	17th ditto.
10	"Bengal Advertiser" ... ..	Calcutta	2,000	
11	"Bardwān Sanjivani" ... ..	Burdwan	296	17th & 24th January 1882.
12	"Chāruvartā" ... ..	Sherepore, Mymensing	.....	16th January 1882.
13	"Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..	Dacca	350	22nd ditto.
14	"Dūt" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
15	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly	745	
16	"Halisahar Prakāshikā" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	21st ditto.
17	"Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	
18	"Medinī" ... ..	Midnapore	.....	21st ditto.
19	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..	Berhampore	487	20th ditto.
20	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
21	"Navavibhākar" ... ..	Calcutta	850	23rd ditto.
22	"Paridarshak" ... ..	Sylhet	.....	15th ditto.
23	"Pratikār" ... ..	Berhampore	275	20th ditto.
24	"Rajshahye Samvād" ... ..	Beauleah	.....	
25	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kakiniā, Rungpore	250	26th ditto.
26	"Sādhārani" ... ..	Chinsurah	500	22nd ditto.
27	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta	500	18th ditto.
28	"Som Prakāsh" ... ..	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	.....	23rd ditto.
29	"Sudhākar" ... ..	Mymensing	.....	
30	"Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..	Calcutta	4,000	21st ditto.
31	"Srihatta Prakāsh" ... ..	Sylhet	440	
32	"Tripurā Vartāvaha" ... ..	Commillah	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>				
33	"Samvād Prabhākar" ... ..	Calcutta	700	20th to 26th January 1882.
34	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto	300	18th to 27th ditto.
35	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..	Ditto	625	23rd to 27th ditto.
36	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā" ... ..	Ditto	500	21st to 28th ditto.
37	"Prabhāti" ... ..	Ditto	.....	21st to 28th ditto.
38	"Samāchār Sudāhbarsan" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
<b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
39	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Ditto	365	21st January 1882.



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	<b>HINDI.</b>			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
40	"Behár Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore, Patna ...	500	19th January 1882.
41	"Bhárat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta ...	500	
42	"Sár Sudhánidhi" ... ..	Ditto ...	200	23rd ditto.
43	"Uchit Baktá" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	21st ditto.
	<b>PERSIAN.</b>			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
44	"Jám-Jahán-numá" ... ..	Ditto ...	250	20th ditto.
	<b>URDU.</b>			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
45	"Akhbár-i-Darussaltanat" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	
	<b>ASSAMESE.</b>			
	<i>Monthly.</i>			
46	"Assam Vilásini" ... ..	Sibsagar ...	.....	
	<b>URIYA.</b>			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
47	"Utkal Dípiká" ... ..	Cuttack ...	200	
48	"Utkal Darpan" ... ..	Balasore ...	160	
49	"Balasore Samvad Váhika" ... ..	Ditto ...	125	
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>			
50	"Mayurbhunj Pákshik Pátriká" ... ..	Mayurbhunj ...	.....	
	<b>HINDI.</b>			
	<i>Monthly.</i>			
51	"Kshatriya Patriká" ... ..	Patna ...	.....	



## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

The *Paridarshak*, of the 15th January, makes the following observations in the course of an editorial headed the

PARIDARSHAK,  
January 15th, 1882.

The Agricultural Department.

"Improvement of Agriculture :"—Now that Lord Ripon has directed his attention to the subject of agriculture, it may be hoped that something practical will be done, and that the proposals made in this connection will not all vanish into air. It is necessary, if agriculture is to be improved, that the classes engaged in it should be enabled to enjoy health. At present they are subject to dire epidemics which cause a high rate of mortality. The existence of facilities (?) for obtaining medical aid may well be perceived from the fact that there are whole villages which do not possess a single charitable dispensary. Another condition which is necessary for the promotion of agriculture is that the peasantry should be secured against all oppression. At present they live in constant fear of their zemindars, who frequently oppress them. Thus agricultural operations are not sufficiently attended to. And lastly, the agricultural classes should be permitted to possess and use firearms for the purpose of protecting their crops from the ravages of wild beasts.

2. The *Cháru Vártá*, of the 16th January, condemns the Assam Emigration Act as a one-sided measure,

CHARU VARTA,  
January 16th, 1882.

The Assam Emigration Act.

framed solely in the interests of the tea-planters. The Editor thus describes the difficulties of Lord Ripon's position in reference to this Act:—Even a liberal and high-minded Viceroy cannot always act with independence. In the solution of questions affecting the conflicting interests of Natives and Europeans, there are many causes which operate to seduce him from the path of duty, and to lead him, no matter whether consciously or unconsciously, to neglect the dictates of his conscience. In obedience to the wishes of superior authority, or under the influence of advice given by his colleagues, a Viceroy occasionally is led to adopt measures which mar the fame won by a series of good acts. Lord Ripon's first trial was in dealing with the conflicting interests of India and Manchester. It would be a needless repetition to describe how he came out of this trial. He was tried a second time when he was called upon to legislate upon the rights of tea-planters, and the labourers employed by them. The trial has ended. Unless he was able to see through the evil counsel of his colleagues, there was no likelihood of his coming out successfully from this trial. The counsellors by whom he is always surrounded are, most of them, indirectly the representatives of tea-planters. They have an interest in giving such advice as may be hostile to the labourers, but favourable to the planters; and they further possess the power of clothing their interested advice in the language of honest disinterestedness. Lord Ripon has not been able to see through the disguise, and has therefore failed in the second trial also.

3. Referring to the fine recently inflicted on the leader of the Chittagong Brahmo Samaj by Mr. Currie, on

CHARU VARTA.

The Chittagong Sankirtan case.

the alleged ground of their having obstructed the public road, the same paper remarks:—If an impartial judgment had been passed in the Bogra case, the Brahmos of Chittagong would have been spared the humiliation to which they have been subjected; and if justice is not done in the present case, it will become difficult for the people to remain undisturbed in the enjoyment of their social and religious privileges. Native Editors are tired of writing of magisterial oppression, and yet the authorities do not seem to be roused from their sleep. If it is the duty of Government to guard the natural rights of men, if it is desirable that they should be undisturbed in the exercise of their religious privileges, and if it is true that Government becomes guilty of a neglect of duty when it fails to save society from humiliation and insult,



then may the public hope that Government will not any longer remain deaf to the wails of the oppressed.

**BHARAT MIHIR,**  
January 17th, 1882.

4. Referring to the remarks made in the last Administration Report of Bengal on the spirit of native newspapers, the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 17th January, makes the following observations:—As far as the *Bhārat Mihir* is concerned, it will remain grateful to Sir Ashley Eden for the kind opinion he has expressed regarding it, but it cannot but strongly protest against the injustice that he has done to native newspapers in general. Without examining them for himself, His Honor must have adopted the remark of some other person regarding one or two journals, and then applied it to the whole body of vernacular papers. There is no other explanation of his action possible. It is not fair that the ruler of the land should come forward with such a strong indictment against a body of men who, without any expectation of honor or pecuniary gain, are unweariedly spending their money and energies in the service of their country. They have never been slow to admit their own shortcomings; but, at the same time, they are not prepared to admit that Bengalis themselves do not understand the position and the feelings of Bengalis, or that their writings do not represent the views of Bengalis. Sir Ashley may rest assured that most Bengali newspapers express the feelings and wishes of educated natives in the mofussil. Of the illiterate masses it is not necessary to speak, because they are not qualified to pronounce any opinion on any subject. But it may be confidently asserted of the great body of the population, who know even the alphabet of the language, that they form their opinions on the topics of the day from a perusal of native newspapers, which in their turn represent the views of these men. The writers in the native press do not hail from the towns, but mostly reside in the mofussil, and mix with all classes of the people. It is really shameful to find Sir Ashley Eden charging Bengalis with ignorance respecting the views, wishes, and condition of their fellow-countrymen. If they labour under this ignorance, what journalist in the country is free from it? It behoves His Honor to make enquiries as to the class of men who conduct Bengali newspapers. Bengali Editors deny that they have opposed all the measures of Government. The truth is, they have opposed only such measures as could not be approved of, and have condemned the motives of Government only where Government was not able to show that its motives were good. The views expressed in the columns of Bengali newspapers on the principal political topics of 1879-80, did not differ much from those which found expression in the leading Anglo-Indian journals of the period. It behoves Sir Ashley Eden to make good his assertion by adducing specific instances from the writings of Bengali newspapers. The remark regarding the number of subscribers is indeed correct, but His Honor should be warned against supposing that because Bengali newspapers have few subscribers, they have therefore few readers; the fact being that one copy of a paper is often found sufficient for all the educated inhabitants of a village. Sir Ashley shows a wonderful ignorance of the extent of circulation, and the degree of influence possessed by vernacular papers. It may be stated with confidence that people who live in villages and are not acquainted with English derive their whole knowledge of political events from Vernacular newspapers, which are also at present read by not a few inmates of the zenana. In conclusion, it behoves His Honor to think for a moment and say if he has done anything for native papers, while he has done much to injure them. If it be true that the newspaper press is an important institution, does not his Government owe a duty to it? If he had devoted to it even the smallest fraction of the time and attention which he gave to matters connected with the other branches of the administration, the native press would have become quite a different thing.



5. We extract the following observations from an article in the same paper headed "What is the true issue?"

BHARAT MIHIB,  
January 17th, 1882.

Is a new tax necessary?

The true issue is—what is the necessity of imposing a new tax now? No answer has yet been given to it. In his next budget Major Baring will doubtless vouchsafe one. As far as one can see, no answer which will be both frank and honest is possible. An income-tax might be the best of all direct taxes. But that is not the point. The fact would seem to be this. Manchester must be conciliated by abolishing the cotton duties: the loss of revenue that would result from this step must be made good by means of fresh taxation. It is of no use to discuss the propriety or otherwise of doing away with the cotton duties. It is foolish to oppose the wishes of Government in this matter. Such seems to be the language which both Manchester and the Secretary of State are employing at the present time. Both expatiate on the advantages that will result from a repeal of the cotton duties. It is argued that there will be free trade, and the people of India will obtain their cloth at cheap rates. Now these statements are equally worthless and dishonest. It certainly does not behove a Government that for revenue purposes deluges the country with liquor, and maintains a duty on certain classes of Indian exports to constantly propound the doctrines of free trade.

6. A correspondent of the same paper asks Government to appoint a medical officer to station Sahebgunge on the East Indian Railway, which is a most populous locality. The Railway doctor is overwhelmed with work, and has very little time to attend to patients who are not servants of the Railway Company.

BHARAT MIHIB.

7. In an article headed Sir Ashley Eden and native newspapers, the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 17th January, makes remarks similar to those noticed before.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
January 17th, 1882.

8. The *Sahachar*, of the 18th January, remarks, in reference to the letter which the Duke of Argyll recently addressed to the President of the Society of Civil Engineers in England, correcting certain statements made by himself in the House of Lords respecting the work done in India by Civil Engineers, that in point of learning and qualifications both Civil and Military Engineers are on an equal footing. Both are fattening on Indian revenues. Both Royal Engineers and Civil Engineers are equally clever (?) architects. Both show skill in making their buildings crack, whilst water always leaks through the roofs of the houses made by them. The successful students of the Cooper's Hill College, however, surpass both and are simply prodigies (?). In fact the great majority of these young men show a lamentable ignorance of the very rudiments of road-making, architecture and canal engineering, and yet the Cooper's Hill College is maintained at an enormous cost.

SAHACHAR,  
January 18th, 1882.

9. The same paper condemns the spirit of the debate which took place in the Indian Legislative Council on the Assam Emigration Bill. It was but natural that the official members who had made up their minds to have the Bill passed should be impatient of opposition. That they attempted eloquence need not excite wonder; nor should the abusive language in which Mr. Stokes indulged be taken into account. The Law Member has grown so foul-mouthed, and he abuses one and all so indiscriminately, that his remarks have gradually come to lose their offensiveness. What the public, however, regret to have to notice is that Mr. Rivers Thompson, the successor designate of Sir Ashley Eden, has shown an extreme impatience of criticism and indulged in invective. This certainly does not augur well for his future. He should take a lesson from the fate of Sir Ashley Eden.

SAHACHAR.



This Governor is not lacking in talents, but owing to a fault of disposition he is placed in the category of worst governors. It is gratifying to find that Lord Ripon maintained the dignity of his position in this debate. He was never wanting in courtesy.

MURSHIDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
January 20th, 1882.

10. In an article on the remarks made by Sir Ashley Eden on the tone of native newspapers, the *Moorshedabad Patriká*, of the 20th January, makes observations similar to those noticed before.

Sir Ashley Eden and native newspapers.

PRATIKAR,  
January 20th, 1882.

11. The *Pratikár*, of the 20th January, remarks that the present Nawab Nazim having abdicated his powers, his successors are entitled to the rights and privileges which were enjoyed by him. There is no reason why they should be considered inferior in position to an ordinary zemindar and deprived of the salute and the titles appertaining to the Nizamut. The proposal to abolish the Nizamut is therefore open to grave objection. There is no treaty extant which could justify such a measure. If the Nizamut ceased to exist, the office of Agent also must be abolished. No one would regret this, but what has become of the Fund which was created to defray the expenses of the Agency? Will Government have the hardihood to appropriate this money which was deposited with it?

The successors of the present Nawab Nazim of Moorshedabad.

PRATIKAR.

12. The same paper condemns the great delay on the part of Government which has taken place in sending medical aid to Hariharpara in the district of Moorshedabad where the inhabitants have suffered severely from an outbreak of cholera and fever since October last. Early in that month the zemindar of Choá in that district wrote to Government asking for the services of a doctor, offering to pay for them from his own pocket. The order granting his prayer was received by him on the 14th December last, but it was sometime after that a doctor and medicines arrived. Meanwhile many had been carried off by the epidemic.

Epidemic in Moorshedabad and Government.

MEDINI,  
January 21st, 1882.

13. The *Medini*, of the 21st January, directs the attention of the authorities of the Midnapore Canal to the inconvenience to which passengers are put from the absence of any arrangement for tiffin on board the canal steamer. The passengers have to remain on board for nearly 28 hours, and to go without food for all this time is not certainly pleasant. It is therefore proposed that a sweetmeat vendor should be allowed to come on board the steamer, and to supply their wants. (2) There should be lodgings made available for passengers at all places where the canal has locks. (3) The toll collectors should be directed to attend to the comforts of the passengers. The Editor hopes that his suggestions will be taken in good part.

The Midnapore canal.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
January 21st, 1882.

14. The *Sulabha Samáchar*, of the 21st January, remarks, in reference to the Assam Emigration Act, that this measure is the outcome of the pressure exerted upon Government by influential European gentlemen interested in the tea trade. The Editor believes that the labourers on the tea estates in Assam are subjected to a very cruel treatment at the hands of their employers, and asks that Government should make secret enquiries in this connection.

The Assam Emigration Act.

SADHARANI,  
January 22nd, 1882.

15. The *Sádháraní*, of the 22nd January, remarks in reference to the debate in the Indian Legislative Council on the Assam Emigration Bill, that it really furnishes matter for reflection. The Commander-in-Chief described the condition of the labourers on the tea plantations as one of remarkable prosperity. He may be right, but a question suggests itself as to whence he derived his knowledge. Doubtless it was derived from the reports of the

Debate on the Assam Emigration Bill.



planters themselves, and of the local officials who are their friends, and these reports could not but be rose-coloured. The opinion of the coolies themselves was also taken, and they are said to have confirmed what had been told him by the planters. Now it is evident that no cooly would ever speak anything which might imply a condemnation of his European master in the presence of another European; and this would certainly be the case if at the time the cooly was interrogated his master was present. In these circumstances, it is to be doubted whether Sir Donald Stewart was able to learn the facts.

The confident manner in which Lord Ripon referred to the prosperous condition of the coolies employed in the tea gardens, and his references to the criticisms passed upon the Assam Emigration Bill by newspapers, show that His Excellency does not always remember that he is liable to error; and that his advisers may not unoften mislead him. The remarks made by Messrs. Thompson and Stokes call for a word or two. The public do not fear Mr. Stokes' anger. The utmost that he can do is to pass a dozen more Acts. Mr. Thompson's manner has, however, caused some anxiety. It is to be hoped that on his appointment to a higher office his temper will grow cooler. The debate on the Assam Emigration Bill, however, shows that the present Viceroy, and consequently his colleagues, are not disposed to wholly disregard native public opinion, and that hasty legislation, such as was witnessed in the time of Lord Lytton, is not a feature of the present Administration.

16. The same paper approves of the sentiments of the memorial recently made to Government by the British Indian Association against the Indian Arms Act.

SADHABANI,  
January 22nd, 1882.

17. The same paper directs the attention of His Excellency the Viceroy to the oppressions committed on the labouring classes by European soldiers on the occasion of their march by the Grand Trunk Road from Howrah to the North-Western Provinces. This takes place every cold season. On these occasions, the zemindars are ordered by the Civil authorities to supply the necessary provisions, and they in their turn compel their tenantry to carry out these orders. These poor people come with the necessary provisions often from a long distance to the appointed place, but instead of receiving fair prices, they are, on the contrary, frequently assaulted by the soldiers, while their things are thrown about and spoilt. And all this is often done in the presence of the Civil authorities, who do not do anything to check the evil.

SADHABANI.

18. Referring to the recently published letter which Mr. O'Donnell addressed to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, the same paper remarks that it is clear Mr. O'Donnell was not guilty of any very grave offence; his only fault seems to have been that he befriended the poor. The writer assures Mr. O'Donnell that the native community sympathises with him in this hour of his trial.

SADHABANI.

19. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 23rd January, notices with regret that Sir Ashley Eden on native newspapers. Sir Ashley Eden has again made certain uncharitable remarks regarding native newspapers. These journals are not ungrateful to Government; on the contrary, they are lavish in expressions of gratitude whenever any benefit is conferred upon them by the rulers. They, however, are obliged to protest against those public measures which are really objectionable. Again, legitimate criticism of, and opposition to, Governmental measures is but a necessary condition of political progress.

SOM PRAKASH,  
January 23rd, 1882.



SOM PRAKASH,  
January 23rd, 1882.

20. The same paper remarks that, if it is desirable to check the self-seeking spirit of Manchester merchants, the people of India cannot do better than to unite and make a firm resolve not to use Manchester piece-goods.

SOM PRAKASH.

21. The same paper, in noticing the last Administration Report of Bengal, remarks that the work is an evidence of the ability and energy of the present Lieutenant-Governor, and contains much useful information. The Editor is, however, sorry to notice that no detailed descriptions are given of the tours undertaken by His Honor during the year under report. It is not shown what work he did on these occasions.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
January 23rd, 1882.

22. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 23rd January, refers to a feeling of uneasiness which has been produced in the minds of the people by a rumour that Lord Ripon had resolved to reduce the Government grant for high education. If the rumour proves correct, there will be cause for much regret. It is the opinion of all persons who are well acquainted with the subject, that the existing arrangements should not be disturbed. Sir Ashley Eden also took this view when opening the Maharajah's College at Burdwan. The time has not yet come when Government could safely withdraw from the field of high education.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

23. The same paper, in a long article, thanks Lord Ripon for repealing the Vernacular Press Act. The speech of Dr. Hunter is much appreciated, and the loyalty of the Native Press vindicated.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

24. The same paper points out that the practice of conferring titles of distinction upon the leading families in this country, titles already enjoyed by them, is open to grave objection. The Houses of Burdwan, Durbhunga, and Dumraon have for generations past enjoyed the title of Maharaja. What honour does Government then mean to do them by conferring it anew. Is it not rather curtailing their rights?

URDU GUIDE,  
January 21st, 1882.

25. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 21st January, remarks, in reference to the statements made by certain ill-disposed persons as to the injudiciousness shewn by Government in having appointed Hon'ble Syud Ahmud, C.S.I., a second time to the Indian Legislative Council, that the gentleman referred to well deserves this honor. He is exceedingly popular with Mahomedans all over India.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 28th January 1882.